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NEWS RELEASE

June 6, 2008

Contact: Keri McWilliams, executive director, Missoula AIDS Council, 406-543-4770.

MISSOULA MEN'S CHORUS CONCERT TO BENEFIT BRINGING NAMES PROJECT AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT TO UM

MISSOULA -

The Missoula Men's Chorus will perform at a benefit concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 13, to help the Missoula AIDS Council and The University of Montana bring the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt to campus.

Tickets for the kick-off fundraiser, which will be held at UM's Music Recital Hall, cost \$10 and will be available to concert-goers at the door.

"The concert will launch the fundraising effort for the AIDS quilt that's coming to the Adams Center. It will be an excellent opportunity for the AIDS council to bring attention to the issues facing those living with HIV and AIDS in Missoula," said Morgan Halvorson, president of the Missoula AIDS Council Board of Directors.

The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt panel display, which will be on view in UM's Adams Center Sept. 18-21, will be the largest exhibit of the quilt ever in Montana. More than 75 quilt blocks memorializing hundreds of individuals who have died of AIDS-related illnesses will be showcased. All known panels honoring those from Montana who have died of AIDS will be on view during the event.

More information on the AIDS Quilt will be available at the concert. Representatives from the Missoula AIDS Council will be on hand to answer questions and sign up volunteers for September's display.

"Signing up to assist with the ceremonies surrounding the AIDS quilt in September is a way for people to help out who aren't in the position to give a financial donation," Halvorson said. "It's going to be a labor-intensive project and we're looking to the community to help."

Information on how to request a specific quilt panel, as well as directions on how to create a panel for the quilt, also will be available at the concert.

The Missoula AIDS Council is the leading community-based organization addressing the challenges associated with HIV/AIDS in Montana. The mission of the organization is to prevent new HIV infections and to provide support for individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

For more information call Keri McWilliams, Missoula AIDS Council executive director, at 543-4770.

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